

Reducing Feral Cat Threats to Native Wildlife



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Mandibles of an endangered Hawaiian Petrel found in a feral cat stomach. USGS photo



Objectives:

- ☆ Improve techniques for attracting cats to traps
- ☆ Develop 'smart trap' technology
- ☆ Develop adaptive management strategies
- ☆ Document impacts on wildlife

Accomplishments:

- ☆ Co-developed a trap alerting system
- ☆ Documented diet and impacts of feral cats on Mauna Loa
- ☆ Monitoring cats with IR camera, scat, and genetics

Significance:

- ☆ Widespread alien predator
- ☆ Biggest limiting factor for Hawaiian birds in high elevation areas
- ☆ Carry toxoplasmosis
- ☆ Cryptic and nocturnal
- ☆ Extremely difficult to control